

CLAIMS:

1. A method for enabling a user to interact with an electronic device using speech, including:

establishing a language attribute associated with a language for interaction with the user;

5 causing at least part of the interaction with the user to take place substantially in the associated language;

receiving speech input from the user,

recognizing at least one voice command in the speech input, where the voice command is associated with a predetermined first function of a device; and a distinct second

10 function of establishing the language attribute; and

setting the language attribute according to the second function of the recognized command.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the voice command is one of a set of

15 voice activation commands, the respective second functions of at least two of the activation commands being to establish the language attribute for respective, distinct languages, the method including enabling recognition of a further set of voice commands in response to recognizing one of the activation commands.

20 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the method includes selecting the further set of voice commands substantially in dependence on the language attribute.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the activation commands includes a word from a language associated with its second function.

25 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the activation commands is a personalized names in a language associated with its second function.

6. A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that at least one of the activation commands is user-definable.

7. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the electronic device is associated with a plurality of sets of voice commands, each set being associated with a language and including voice commands substantially in the associated language, and wherein the step of selecting the further set of voice commands includes selecting at least one set whose associated language is related to a language associated with the language attribute.

8. A computer program product wherein the program product is operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 7.

9. An electronic device including:

control means (12, 13, 14) for initiating individual functions of the electronic device, for establishing a language attribute associated with a language for interaction with a user, and for causing at least part of the interaction with the user to take place substantially in the associated language;

input means (1) for receiving speech input from the user; and

a speech recognizer (4) connected with said input means recognizing at least one voice command in the speech input, where the voice command is associated with a predetermined first function of a device; and a distinct second function of establishing the language attribute;

the control means being operative to set the language attribute according to the second function of the recognized command.